

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TUNIS 05234 271343Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 EB-08 TRSE-00 AID-05 MC-02
ACDA-07 IGA-02 COME-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 NEAE-00 /082 W
-----096136 271354Z /45

P 270810Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7616
INFO SECDEF ISA/DSAA
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE/ECJ5

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 5234

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS TS
SUBJECT: "MINIMUM LEVELS" FOR FY 79 SECURITY ASSISTANCE

REF: TUNIS 4742 AND STATE 172346

1. THIS MSG RESPONDS TO STATE REFTTEL. WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE
"MINIMUM" FUNDING LEVEL FOR FY 79 FMS CREDITS TO TUNISIA
MAINTAINED AT \$25 MILLION.

2. THE TOTAL CHAPARRAL-VULCAN-FAAR AIR DEFENSE PACKAGE
INCLUDING TRAINING, SUPPORT AND LIMITED DEPOT MAINTENANCE

WILL COST THE TUNISIANS CLOSE TO \$90 M. THIS SUM REPRESENTS
72 PERCENT OF THE HOPED-FOR \$125 M FMS CREDITS TO SUPPORT
THE TUNISIAN MILITARY'S MODEST FIVE YEAR (FY 76-80) MODER-
NIZATION PROGRAM. EVEN IF THE TUNISIANS ARE ABLE TO GET AN
ADDITIONAL END-FY 78 \$10 M, THE TOTAL \$135 M PACKAGE DOES
NOT STRETCH TOO FAR. AT BEST, THE REMAINING \$45 M WILL BE
\$10 M SHORT OF PURCHASING THE TUNISIANS STATED REQUIREMENT
FOR 2 COMPANIES OF M48A5 TANKS, A JEEP-MOUNTED TOW-
MISSELE ANTI-TANK COMPANY, A 155 MM SP ARTILLERY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TUNIS 05234 271343Z

BATTALION, AND EIGHT PATROL BOATS.

3. OF EQUAL IMPORTANCE TO THE TUNISIANS IS THE IMPACT OF
A REDUCED-LEVEL CREDIT AVAILABILITY ON DRAW-DOWN SCHED-
ULES OF COMMITTED FMS CASES. WITH AN AVERAGE DRAW-DOWN
SCHEDULE OF 10 PERCENT TO 15 PERCENT INITIALLY AND 10
PERCENT QUARTERLY PER FMS CONTRACT, THE TUNISIANS HAVE

HAD TO STAGGER THEIR LETTERS OF OFFER AND ACCEPTANCE (LOA) TO STAY UNDER THEIR CREDIT AVAILABILITY CURVE. THE TUNISIANS WILL BE "SKIMMING THE CREDIT SURFACE- ON THEIR CURRENTLY COMMITTED CHAPARRAL-VULCAN-FAAR BUY. A REDUCTION OF \$3, \$5 M IN FY 79 MAY IMPACT ON THE TUNISIAN DECISION TO PURCHASE THEIR FOLLOW-ON TANKS, TOWS, ARTILLERY AND PATROL BOATS. A CREDIT REDUCTION COULD CERTAINLY IMPACT ON SIGNATURE DATES AND CONSEQUENTLY CONTRACTS, LEAD TIMES, AND EVENTUALLY DELIVERY SCHEDULES.

4. LASTLY, WE FEEL THAT WE OWE OUR BEST EFFORTS TO GET \$25 M FMS CREDITS FOR TUNISIA IN FY 79. ALTHOUGH WE ALWAYS AVOID PROMISES WHICH ARE BINDING ON THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, WE HAVE ALL CLEARLY IMPLIED THAT WE WOULD GO TO BAT FOR TUNISIA IN HELPING HER MODEST DEFENSE MODERNIZATION PROGRAM. A REDUCTION IN FY 79 FMS CREDITS FROM \$25 M TO \$20 M MIGHT BE INTERPRETED AS A SIGNAL BY TUNISIA THAT OUR MILITARY AID MAY BE DECLINING. TUNISIA COULD START LOOKING ELSEWHERE; WE ARE ALREADY CONCERNED WHERE THAT ELSEWHERE COULD BE.

5. WE APPRECIATE YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT AND WE APPRECIATE YOUR ASKING FOR OUR COMMENTS.
MULCAHY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY SALES, APPROPRIATIONS, MILITARY CREDIT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 27-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977TUNIS05234
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770269-0129
Format: TEL
From: TUNIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770712/aaaaajwh.tel
Line Count: 86
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 13fbf662-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 TUNIS 4742, 77 STATE 172346
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1729177
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: \"MINIMUM LEVELS\" FOR FY 79 SECURITY ASSISTANCE
TAGS: MASS, US, TS
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/13fbf662-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009